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The Original Amphibian: The First U. S. Navy Aircraft, a Curtiss "Triad" (July, 1911)

VOLUME X
Number 18

SPECIAL FEATURES

PRESIDENT SENDS AVIATION REPORT TO CONGRESS
THREE YEARS OF THE AIR MAIL
THE ULTIMATE AIRPLANE ENGINE
THE FOKKER COMMERCIAL EXPRESS

RECEIVED
MAY 5 1921

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LANGLEY FIELD, VA.

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AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT JOURNAL

VOL. X, NO. 18

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CLOSES LAST OF MARCH 1, 1921.

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Vol. X

MAY 3, 1932

No. 15

Encouraging Aeronautical Engineers

THE Navy competition in which the postulant awards have just been made marks a departure from previous governmental practice in that every effort was made to encourage the "outside designer" not affiliated with any producing company in aircraft design.

Great as is the goal of encouragement and assistance to the free thinking airplane it is of no less importance that designers and engineers be encouraged and that some incentive for maintaining aeronautical work be given those who for one reason or another have not kept direct association with the industry. It is not easy, as we have seen during the war, to persuade surplus factories at time of need, but it is even more difficult to persuade competent designing staffs, and the aeronautical engineer once trained should be regarded as a potential national asset. A consequence of the policy of holding design competitions entirely severed from any question of the actual construction of airplanes by the designers will be among the most effective means of raising those now engaged in airplane design, but now into other fields, due to the decreasing number of engineers needed by the present industry, to keep up with aeronautical developments and continue their work along that line, at least as an avocation.

Three Years of Air Mail Service

WHEN in the spring of 1929 the Post Office Department opened the Washington-New York air mail route, doubts were expressed as to the possibility of speed-making a service during the winter. Three years have passed since and today the Air Mail not only operates all the year round, but it reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific. New York is within 72 hours from San Francisco and even this time will be halved next summer when the Air Mail will run on a day-and-night schedule. It should not be forgotten that Otto Pomeroy will always have the credit of this pioneer work.

The U. S. Air Mail Service represents an achievement of which all Americans should feel proud. It started as a pioneer and it has remained a pioneer in furnishing a daily practical demonstration of nonstop aviation.

Lateral Control

IN spite of the great amount of aerodynamic data available and the numerous controllability tests conducted under fairly realistic conditions, the subject of lateral control is still shrouded in mystery and discussed in an enigmatic and unsatisfactory manner. One step is said to have good lateral control because it was flown by a skilled pilot. Another step is denied as sluggish on the lateral control because it was tested by an inferior pilot. The good control of a machine, like the Fokker, is attributed to the fact that it was a thick wing aircraft, or that the control mechanisms are efficient, or because the airplane was placed over the center of gravity, or

one or other more or less satisfactory reasons. While serious attention should be given to this subject in wind tunnel laboratories, it seems highly interesting to state at least the premises of the problem.

It is not sufficient to take a rough percentage of the wing area, place a row of air in the position most suitable on the structural grounds, and end right there. We should consider first of all, whether the machine has its weights concentrated laterally, on the lateral moment of inertia, will have an important bearing on the subject. Next we must see whether the aspect ratio is high or low. With a high aspect ratio the elevator area is added larger, but the weight of the wing structure is proportionately more spread out, and the damping moment of the wings is likewise greater. We must consider whether the chord of the elevator is larger or smaller since the moment about the hinges of the elevator will depend on this.

Then we must consider whether it is a thick or a thin wing that is under consideration, and determine whether the same style of elevator is suitable for both thick and thin wing sections.

We must also deal with the correct length of the elevator and whether it is best to make a short elevator, with a large chord or a long elevator with a small chord. What is the efficiency of the elevator control at low angles of incidence? Does the controlling moment fall off as suddenly at high angles of incidence? What is the yawing moment introduced by the elevator for a given rolling moment? Is there any empirical data available for a single similar type of machine? Is there any aerodynamic data bearing on the subject? What is the maximum movement of the stick laterally and what are the leverages involved? What is the extent of the controllability required?

It will be seen from this that the apparently simple problem of proportion in the elevator is in reality an exceptionally complex one.

New Aircraft Material

A NEW material which seems to have decided possibilities for aircraft construction has just appeared on the market. It is manufactured by consulting this sheet metal fabric to a relatively thick core of light weight material.

The construction is certainly aggressive and visible. There may be some practical difficulties in applying the new material to aircraft construction, but it is readily conceivable that there would be a number of possible uses.

Long as, for instance, a wing spar built up of this material. All the difficulties involved in securing metal flanges of the right shape, with the special dies and tools required, would disappear. At the same time, the local strength of the spar would be greatly increased as compared to a metal spar. This sheet metal would form a smooth, flexible surface, and would reduce deterioration and fire hazard. For struts and innumerable smaller constructions would apply.

represented in the membership of the various subcommittees. The proposed and active research and experimental development of each governmental department is reported to the subcommittees, thus preventing unnecessary duplication. The subcommittees further formulate needs of exchange information and ideas which permeate the industry and the various departments to familiarize themselves with the research that it is progress.

Navy and Department of Commerce

(a) *Geographic Survey.* The Air Service of the Navy is now engaged in mapping the Mississippi Delta, the Gulf Coast and Chesapeake Bay, and has completed the mapping of coasts in South Carolina for the same service.

(b) *The Service of Fisheries.* The Navy has demonstrated to the Bureau of Fisheries the practicability of locating schools of fish and reporting their location to fishermen. This service has been extended to the point where it was shown that it would be practicable to maintain an airplane service for this purpose.

Navy and Treasury Department

(a) *Coast Guard.* The Navy Air Service has cooperated with the Coast Guard in the training of pilots and the transfer of equipment to this organization.

Navy and Department of Agriculture

(a) *Weather Service.* The Weather Bureau has cooperated to the extent of its facilities in providing meteorological information to the Navy. A meteorological interdepartmental committee has been organized to coordinate the needs and services of all of the governmental departments operating airplanes.

War Department and Department of Agriculture

(a) *Forest Service.* An aerial survey is being made of the Forest Service lands of the State of Washington where over 5,000,000,000 board feet of timber has been destroyed. Forest Fire Patrol will be equipped with and require approximately 1,000,000 miles of flying per year.

(b) *Bureau of Farm Management.* Photographs have been made of agricultural districts in order to obtain photographs by which records of which farm management and development may be improved.

(c) *Bureau of Entomology.* Various areas have been photographed for the Bureau of Entomology and experiments are being made for the purpose of locating pest insects in the upper air currents.

(d) *Weather Bureau.* The Air Service has cooperated with the Weather Bureau in various experiments, especially in connection with obtaining meteorological information.

War Department and Treasury Department

Aerial photographs of various areas are being made for the use of the United States Public Health Service.

War Department and Department of the Interior

Geological Survey. Geological surveys are being made of various areas such as Hottel County, Okla., Director New York, New York Harbor, 2700 square miles in North Carolina, some 3000 square miles in the vicinity of Los Angeles, and many other areas totaling some 20,000 square miles. For the same department the Air Service is cooperating with the Director of National Parks and the Chief of the Reclamation Service.

War Department and Department of Commerce

Coast and Geologic Survey. Areas near the head of the Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic City and Florida reefs are being photographed from the air. Also, the coast of New Jersey, from Cape May to Sandy Hook. By means of aerial photographs series of the charts of the James River from Hampton Roads to Richmond and the coast lines of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida are being accomplished. Aerial photographs of various forest areas, public buildings, rivers, and cities are being taken wherever facilities become available. Among the important examples of this type of work may be quoted: Forest areas of the Adirondack region and the State

of Pennsylvania, public buildings and grounds of the District of Columbia, 1200 miles of the Red River basin between the States of Oklahoma and Texas, and the Tennessee River Basin. Photographs for the Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts are being made to aid in planning the new national grounds.

APPENDIX E COOPERATION OF WAR AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS AND OPERATIONS

COST OF FINANCIAL PLANT

These figures do not include the overhead, such as cost of initial equipment of airplanes nor personal expenses and salaries of operating personnel, which are covered in the specific Aeronautics for that purpose.

(A) Year 1921. Progress covering California and Oregon alone.

Estimate of actual money expended:	
(a) Maintenance of airplanes and their spare parts, 37 planes at \$200 per plane . . .	\$ 7,400.00
(b) Maintenance of engines and their spare parts, 50 engines at \$200 each . . .	10,000.00
(c) Fuel and oil, based on 25 gallons per hour at \$3.50 per gallon, and 750 gallons of oil at \$1.00 per gallon, thousands . . .	35,000.00
(d)	5,944.00
	\$58,000.00

(B) Estimate for fiscal year 1932. Extended from its present.

(This program will not be carried out due to lack of—)

(a) Appropriations.

(b) Personnel.

(c) Instructions from General Staff adopting first alternative (that is, a reduction) of the same alternative on both.

This would allow the Forest Fire Patrol to include Washington, Idaho, Montana and a small portion of Wyoming, a total of five squadrons, 160 officers and 460 enlisted men.

Estimated Cost:

(a) Maintenance of airplanes and their spare parts \$ 54,200.00

(b) Maintenance of engines and their spare parts 47,300.00

(c) Cost of fuel and lubricants \$15,494.00

Total \$117,000.00

Notes—This does not include the appropriation of \$60,000 obtained by the Department of Agriculture for expenditure with the Air Service and forest fire protection and expenditure under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture and its officers.

Dutch Air Line Starts Operation

On Apr. 15 the air mail and passenger service between London and Holland, with through connections to Northern Germany and Scandinavia, resumed. The Royal Dutch Air Transport Co., Oosterveen, as the K.L.M. from the initials of its Dutch name) carried out these services last year with chartered English machines. They have now, however, purchased a fleet of Fokker commercial airplanes, as it was found impossible to conduct passenger services with converted war machines, which carried insufficient loads to pay their way and did not provide sufficient comfort. The machines are used as the new Fokker F-10 biplane monoplane, which bear 220 hp. N.M.F. or 240 hp. Sisking engine and carry in a comfortable cabin, five passengers, with their baggage, at a speed of 108 mph.

It is stated that the Dutch company intends to extend the service from London to Southampton, Plymouth and Liverpool in order to enable passengers arriving from America to immediately continue their journey to Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Rome or Copenhagen by air. An office may be opened in New York so that reservations may be made in advance.

Three Years of Air Mail Service

The United States Air Mail Service will complete its third year of operation on May 15, 1932, with more than 2,200,000 miles of flying to its credit. In this period the Air Mail Service will have carried more than 50,000,000 letters, or an average of approximately 3,000,000 lb. of mail, and served 87 per cent of its scheduled mileage, based on its performance up to March 15, 1932.

A Comparison of Performance

This work has not been accomplished without the usual number connected with aviation, but the accompanying table shows that the United States Air Mail Service has a better safety record than commercial aviation in Great Britain or in Canada. This record shows one fatality in the Air Mail Service for each 50,000 miles flown, against one fatality for each 10,000 miles flown in England, and one fatality for each 73,000 miles flown in Canada.

The Air Mail service over a period of 26 months, the United States carried 20 months and the Canadian record is for a period of 9 months. The work of the Air Mail Service, except for a small amount of test flying, consists entirely of cross-country flying over great distances, whereas the British and Canadian air enterprises operate over very short distances. The Air Mail Service operates the longest, average in the world, the distance between New York and San Francisco being 2,500 miles, while the longest British average, from London to Paris, is only 340 miles long. No average is operated in Canada.

The table of comparative performance of the United States Air Mail Service and of British Canadian civil flying follows:

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF PERFORMANCE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR MAIL, AND OF BRITISH AND CANADIAN CIVIL FLYING

Month	Miles flown	Per cent of scheduled	Letters carried	Passengers carried	Weight of mail carried	Weight of passengers carried
January	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
February	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
March	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
April	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
May	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
June	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
July	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
August	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
September	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
October	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
November	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
December	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000

Notes—The American Air Mail service is only 30 days old and does not include the actual amount of business has reported this service in which one of our machines in the service was killed. The British service carries 100 machines in the service, and in this connection.

Following are given are also taken indicating the performance:

Notes—The American Air Mail service is only 30 days old and does not include the actual amount of business has reported this service in which one of our machines in the service was killed. The British service carries 100 machines in the service, and in this connection.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE MAY 15, 1918 TO MARCH 31, 1932

MONTH	Miles flown	Per cent of scheduled	Letters carried	Passengers carried	Weight of mail carried	Weight of passengers carried
January	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
February	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
March	10,000	85.00	1,000,000	10,000	1,000,000	10,000
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The purchase of thousands of small airplanes, the Government has decided to buy, will be the first step in a plan to place the United States at the head of the world in commercial aviation.

The plan is to buy a large number of small airplanes, the Government has decided to buy, will be the first step in a plan to place the United States at the head of the world in commercial aviation.



Details of the plan, of special interest to automotive men, which will place the United States at the head of the world in commercial aviation.

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